



**Stuart Rabner, Attorney General**

**For Immediate Release:**  
October 26, 2006

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## **Attorney General Names Robert J. Gilson as Director of the Division of Law**

*Former Federal Prosecutor John Vazquez Also Named Special Assistant to AG*

**TRENTON** – Attorney General Stuart Rabner today announced the appointment of Robert J. Gilson as Director of the Division of Law in the Department of Law and Public Safety. He will begin in his new position on November 13.

In announcing the Division of Law appointment today, Attorney General Rabner also announced the appointment of John Michael Vazquez as an Assistant Attorney General and Special Assistant to the Attorney General who will work on criminal justice matters.

Gilson, 48, of Sparta, is a partner in the litigation group of the law firm Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland and Perretti. He serves as chairman of the firm's Appellate Practice Group, as well as its Pro Bono Committee. Gilson has extensive courtroom experience at both the federal and state level, including appellate work. He is a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics, is a former chairman and trustee of the Supreme Court's New Jersey Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection Committee, and served as a member of its District X Ethics Committee.

"Bob Gilson has a well-deserved reputation as an outstanding attorney of the highest ethical standards. As Director of the Division of Law, I am confident he will serve this department and the citizens of New Jersey well," said Attorney General Rabner.

"I look forward to joining the Office of the Attorney General and to having the chance to work with the dedicated women and men of the Division of Law," said Gilson. "I will strive to serve the people of New Jersey with integrity, energy and a devotion to the fair and impartial administration of the law."

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The Division of Law provides legal representation and counsel to departments, boards, offices, commissions and other entities of state government, as well as its officers and employees. As part of its mission, the Division of Law represents the state in all legal matters including actions to enforce the law, defend state statutes and protect state interests in contractual matters.

After graduating from law school, Gilson served as law clerk to Judge John J. Gibbons of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit from September 1985 through August 1986. Gilson joined Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland and Perretti in September 1986. His recent work for the firm has concentrated primarily in the area of commercial litigation, including corporate acquisitions, contract disputes, and product liability matters. He has also handled many employment-related cases, matters involving corporate governance, and construction cases.

Gilson earned a B.A. degree from Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., in 1980, graduating cum laude with honors in history. He received his J.D. with magna cum laude honors from the Boston College Law School in Newton, Mass. in 1985. That same year he was admitted to the New Jersey bar, as well as the U.S. District Court-New Jersey bar.

Gilson is a member of the American Bar Association and the New Jersey Federal Bar Association. In addition to his private practice work, he has been involved with a broad array of pro bono matters, including serving as pro bono legal counsel to such non-profit organizations as Children on the Green, Inc. and the former Morristown School of the Arts. He has also served on the New Jersey Supreme Court Task Force on Drugs and the Courts.

Married and the father of four children, Gilson remains active in a number of community endeavors. He is a Lector and Catechist of the Blessed Kateri Roman Catholic Parish, and a current trustee of the Morris Area YMCA.

Vazquez, a former federal prosecutor, will assist the Attorney General and Division of Criminal Justice Director Gregory Paw in investigations into public corruption and white collar fraud.

Vazquez, 36, served for the past five years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey. For the past two years, he was Health Care Fraud Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney, overseeing all criminal investigations and prosecutions in that area, while also handling securities fraud matters. Prior to that, he handled various prosecutions for the office's Criminal Division, Major Narcotics Unit and Terrorism Unit.

Vazquez received a bachelor's degree in political science and history from Rutgers College in 1992 and graduated summa cum laude from Seton Hall University School of Law in 1996. He was an associate in the law offices of Michael Critchley & Associates in West Orange from September 1997 until September 2001. He clerked for Judge Herman D. Michaels, the presiding judge of the New Jersey Superior Court Appellate Division. Vazquez lives in Boonton with his wife and two children.

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